

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-26 are pending in the present application, claim 6 having been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A drawing was required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.81(c) because the subject matter of the invention admits of illustration by a drawing. A new figure is submitted herewith. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 22 have been amended to remove the asterisks. Additionally, the parentheses have been removed from claims 1, 4-5, 12, 17, 19, and 20-23.

Claims 1 and 3-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Farchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,978,444). Claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Farchi in view of Padawer (U.S. Patent No. 5,124,989). Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 6-25 present allowable subject matter, and that claim 26 is allowed. To advance prosecution, and without conceding the merits of these rejections, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 6, which claim has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1-5 are moot. Withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office action of April 27, 2010

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned
at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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